

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-16 and 18-20 are currently active.

Claims 2 and 17 have been canceled.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 1 as being anticipated by Younessian. Claim 1 now has the limitations of Claims 2-4.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3, 8, 13, 14 and 16-19 as being anticipated by Wilcox. Wilcox fails to teach a Z-beam. It is respectfully requested if the Examiner believes Wilcox teaches a Z-beam, please point out by column and line number in the text, and by element number in the figures where it is. All independent claims, as amended, now have a Z-beam limitation.

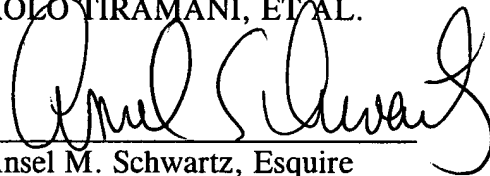
The Examiner has rejected Claims 8, 9, 16 and 19 as being obvious over Schneider in view of Remington. It is respectfully submitted Remington teaches an N-shaped beam, not a Z-beam. Accordingly, Claims 8, 9, 16 and 19 are patentable over the applied art of record.

The Examiner has found Claims 4-7, 10-15 and 17-20 allowable. Claims 1 and 16 are now Claims 4 and 17 rewritten in independent form with all the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejections and objections to this application be reconsidered and withdrawn, and Claims 1, 5-16 and 18-20, now in this application be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

PAOLO TIRAMANI, ET AL.

By 

Ansel M. Schwartz, Esquire
Reg. No. 30,587
One Sterling Plaza
201 N. Craig Street
Suite 304
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
(412) 621-9222

Attorney for Applicants

